GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2413
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAMME
NIVEDITA MANE;PUSP JAIN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government so far to arrest desertification in the country;

(b) the details thereof alongwith financial outlay thereof;

(c) whether the areas for reclaiming of land degraded permanently by heavy sand deposits due to flood are likely to be included in the anti-desertification programme; and

(d) if so, the areas in the States likely to be included in the said programme ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Shri T.R.Baalu)

(a) & (b) Arresting and reversing land degradation, which is linked to combating desertification is part of various on-going schemes of the Government of India. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is currently engaged in preparation of a National Action Programme under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which will specifically include projects to combat desertification in the country. The financial outlay of year 2000-2001 for the major programmes and schemes addressing land degradation of the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development isRs. 900 crores, for the Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation it is Rs. 138 crores and for the Ministry of Environment and Forests , the outlay is Rs. 150.50 crores.

(c) & (d) Only those areas of the country in the `dryland` regions, as defined in the UNCCD for combating desertification, will be considered under the proposed National Action Programme.